

JAMAICA

The National Flower and The National Tree

The Mahoe, (Hisbiscus elatus) is one of Jamaica's secondary economic timbers.

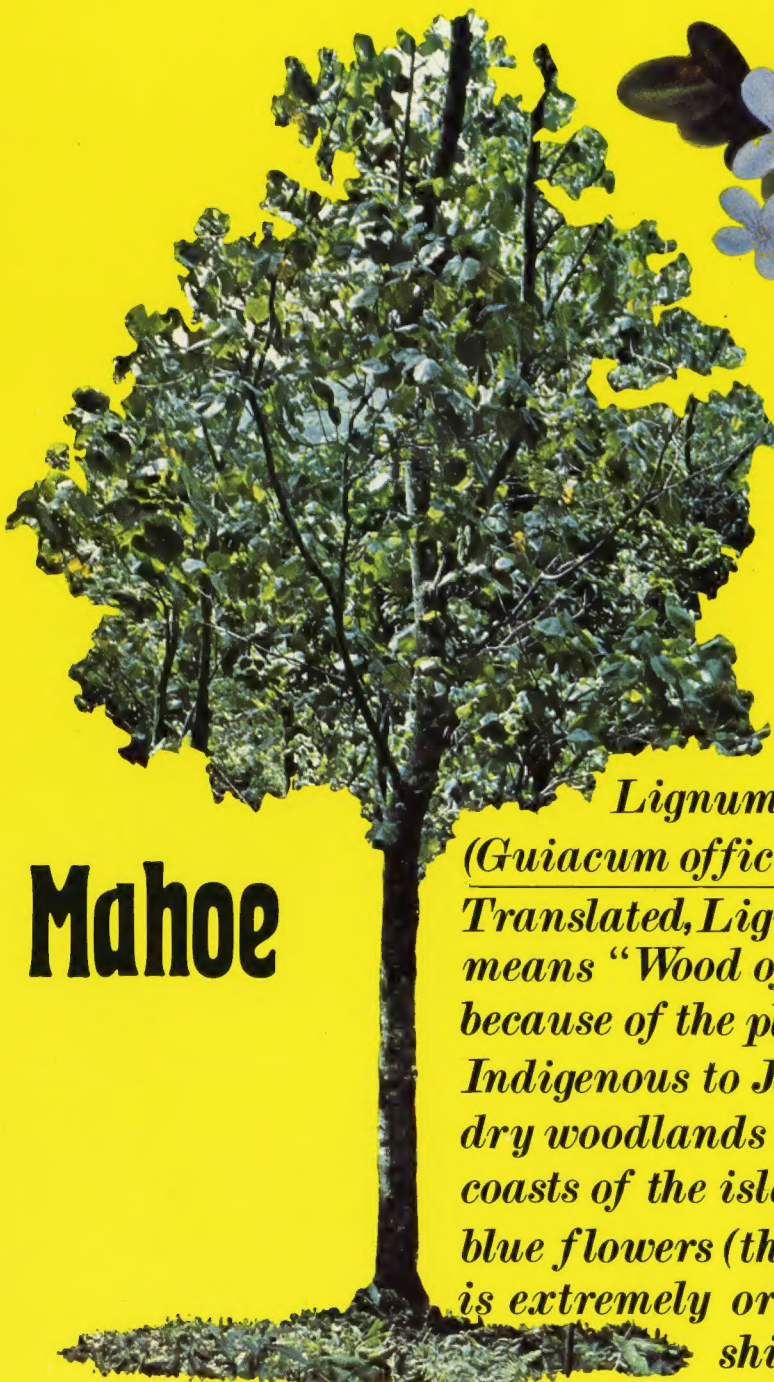
Mahoe is popular with small furniture

manufacturers as the attractive blue-green wood with its variegated yellow intrusions is capable of taking a high polish which shows up the variety

of grain and colour tones. The National

Tree is also used in afforestation

programmes.



Mahoe



Lignum Vitae

*Lignum Vitae
(Guaiacum officinale)*

Translated, Lignum Vitae means "Wood of Life", a name supposedly adopted because of the plant's medicinal qualities.

Indigenous to Jamaica, the tree grows best in the dry woodlands along both the North and South coasts of the island. In addition to its attractive blue flowers (the National flower), the plant itself is extremely ornamental and useful, and a few ships still use Lignum Vitae as a bearing in their stern tubes.